

From: Mike Reghitto <mrrighitto@ucdavis.edu>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/31/96 7:01pm
Subject: Web Phones

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To whom it may concern,

I understand that long distance telephone providers are complaining about the proliferation of Web Phones. My opinion is summated as follows:

- 1) There is no difference in data transmission whether that data is an e-mail message, a binary file, a sound file, or a Web Phone file; therefore, there is absolutely no way to regulate this without extreme expense and disruption of these other transmissions.
- 2) There is no way the Government should support a "monopoly" of the long distance phone companies on long distance voice communications. If the government had supported a monopoly for the wagon making companies to continue making wagons to transport people despite the exsistance of automobiles, the automobile industry never would have developed.
- 3) Undoubtedly, law enforcement will be concerned about this making it more difficult to "wire tap" phone lines and listen in on personal communications; however, they can certainly afford to buy their own modem and listen in that way. They may also worry about encryption software; however, that is already available for e-mail communications: this will NOT in any way change that concern.

Thank you for you time,
Mike Reghitto

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From: John Tynes <rev@halcyon.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/31/96 4:56pm
Subject: RM No. 8775 informal comment

Re: RM No. 8775

As a U.S. citizen, and a small-business entrepreneur who makes extensive use of the internet on a daily basis, I would like to encourage the FCC to reject ACTA's petition to stop sales of internet voice communication software.

I see two reasons to reject this proposal.

A) It's protectionary. New technologies must ever supplant old ones, and ACTA is simply looking to protect its members' way of doing business in the face of progress. There is no real difference between voice communications via internet and email communications via internet; the data is sent with the same means, and is composed of the same types of signals. Will the FCC then get in the business of regulating email communication? The distinction drawn by ACTA is an arbitrary and self-serving one, akin to blacksmiths trying to stop Henry Ford from making cars because it will hurt their horseshoe business.

B) It's too late. ACTA points to a handful of commercial software vendors as the agents of trouble, but this is a simple-minded view. I've experimented with voice communications over the internet using the CU-SeeMe software, developed by a university. Writing this software is not difficult, and given the internet's pervasiveness, distributing it is not either. Should the FCC attempt to regulate that handful of companies engaged in commercial distribution, I have to assume that programmers around the world will eventually respond with freely-distributable software (like CU-SeeMe, which is free) that does the same job--and that cannot be effectively dealt with in a prosecutorial fashion. The point is, the genie is out of the bottle; attempting to retroactively regulate the way this is happening is pointless and only serves to demonstrate how different the internet is from existing forms of communication.

I received a degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and I feel I have a decent appreciation for and understanding of the FCC's role in our society. Likewise, I'm an experienced internet user. I counsel you to consider ACTA's petition carefully, and I hope you come to understand that the old model of telecom is collapsing faster than anyone likes to admit. The FCC has a vital role to play. I hope you will do so with intelligence and foresight.

John Tynes
Seattle, Washington

John Tynes rev@halcyon.com [] "If he died in Memphis, <http://www.halcyon.com/rev/> [] wouldn't that be cool?"

Pagan Publishing [] -The Replacements,
& Daedalus Entertainment [] "Alex Chilton"

-see my role-playing game (PUPPETLAND) at the WWW address above-

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From: Wayne Greene <wgreen19@gate.net>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/31/96 4:37pm
Subject: Internet Telecommunications

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Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm a registered voter, and I'm very concerned about the recent hysteria stirred up by the major telecommunication companies over the internet. These companies are upset because anyone can now make a long distance phone call anywhere in the world using their computer's modem, and the internet. In most cases, access to the internet is a local phone call. Customers would no longer be charged for long distance phone calls, and would only pay for basic internet connection charges to their internet provider.

I'm writing in support of this new internet technology, and free the enterprise system. No company should be allowed to have a monopoly on telecommunications. Please allow the growth of the internet to continue, as well as the use of any new technologies invented for the internet.

Thank you,

Wayne Greene
Dunedin, FL e-mail: wgreen19@gate.net

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From: Dave Mausner <d-mausner@nwu.edu>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/31/96 12:13pm
Subject: comment on ACTA filing: opposed

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4 096

I am a private citizen and an Internet user. I oppose the request made to the FCC in the ACTA filing for relief.

1. The Internet has long been used specifically for transferring information between computers. The information may be recognizable to humans, or not, according to the agreements made between the parties. ACTA is asking FCC to consider the content of the information in transit, to determine whether it may be recognizable as long-distance voice communication. There is ample precedent to show that FCC may not limit the content of communication, with certain extremely limited exceptions.

ACTA's petition does not request new exceptions to the precedent; they are instead asking for the exclusion of an entire technology for purely profit motivation.

2. It is worth noting that the Internet is in essence a long-distance telephone network, whose lines are leased from the telephone companies, and that those companies derive profit from the use of the Internet. Therefore restricting the unregulated growth of Internet applications could hardly protect telephone company profits.

3. Only a small fraction of USA consumers possess sufficient computer understanding to install and use Internet-phone appliances. The market is so small that for all practical purposes its potential is 0% of the long-distance revenues collected today.

4. The internet is useful precisely because new applications are unimpeded by government regulation.

ACTA's petition therefore has no value and should be refused by FCC. Thanks for extending the period for public comment.

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From: Douglas Ross, Dept of Management <E7B3DNR@TOE.TOWSON.EDU>
Date: 3/30/96 10:04pm
Subject: Re: undeliverable message to fcc

APR 1 1996

From: TOE::E7B3DNR "Douglas Ross, Dept of Management" 26-MAR-1996 16:25:39.32
To: IN%"rm8775@fcc.gov"
CC: ROSS-D
Subj: competition and telephones

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I find it curious that the very group of independent telephone companies that called for increasing competition at the expense of the Bell System are now attempting to stifle competition because their investment is at risk.

Isn't the appropriate government response: "adapt or go out of business"? The independents are merely trying to freeze technology at their level at the expense of consumers. Why would you protect mere opportunists who add little value to the system?

By the way I don't have an internet phone (yet).

Douglas N. Ross, Ph.D.
Department of Management
Towson State University
Towson MD 21204
Tel/fax: 410-830-4071/3236
E-Mail: Ross-D@TOE.Towson.edu

CC: A16.A16(rm8775)

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From: Daniel Yang <dyang@dvc.net>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/30/96 8:51pm
Subject: ACTA Petition

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MAR 4 1996

RECEIVED

Dear FCC:

The Internet phone usage of which the ACTA petition addresses IS the competition that Congress and the President wanted when they passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Now that it's here, don't kill it with regulations, any regulations. There was no regulation of the personal computer, for quality, use of resources, national security or other reasons, and yet today we have a strong, vibrant and dynamic PC industry - second to no other country in the world. If left alone, this will be repeated in the Internet arena.

Technological innovation is NOT fair. Evolution is not fair. Trying to make it otherwise through regulations will only kill it. If some sense of fairness is the objective, the FCC should relax or eliminate the regulations on the ACTA members instead of imposing new regulations on the Internet.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Yang

PO Box 6218
Rancho Palos Verdes
California 90734
(310)544-2269

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From: Mr. Natural <raoul@mindspring.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/30/96 7:12am
Subject: ACTA Internet Phone Petition (RM No. 8775)

APR 1 1996

Mr. Natural <raoul@mindspring.com>
A16.A16(rm8775)

To the Federal Communications Commission:

Sir/Madam.

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Please reject ACTA's petition against I-Phone, et.al. It represents restraint of free trade. The petition's arguments are false; that the

Internet Phone is no different from existing phone service, but will be used for obscenity, drug dealing, and crime.

If that's so, then ACTA's clients' ("the phone companies") existing media are being used for obscenity, drug dealing, and crime, and they should shut down immediately. No more dial tones.

ACTA's petition represents monopoly capitalism using the power of the FCC to strangle the voice and business acumen of the People of this nation, and is a shameful display of corporate money.

Thank you.

Peter C. Johnson
594 Village Creek Drive
Lilburn, Georgia 30247

CC: FCCMAIL.SMTP("pharqel@mindspring.com","olga1@ix.ne...

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From: Steve Bauer <sbauer@southwind.net>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/30/96 7:29am
Subject: RM8775 Comments

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APR 1 1996

COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION

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Gentlemen,

I am not presently a user of any of the software to allow voice conversations on the Internet, however, it is something I want to try.

Based on the very small number of people I know who are using such software on the net, I can't really see how it is such a big threat to telecommunication firms. Additionally, how in the world would you regulate activity on the net? It would be virtually impossible.

I support voting down the Rulemaking request to limit I-Phone activity on the net. If telecommunication firms would work to make long distance communications more affordable, net users would not have a reason to move to an alternate form of communication.

Finally, with the budget cuts that the FCC is facing, it doesn't make sense to add another enforcement element to your list, especially one that is not necessary.

Sincerely,

Steve Bauer
3908 W. 18th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67203-1009 Amateur Extra Class License holder: KC0HF

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From: Belga <pharqel@mindspring.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/30/96 8:12am
Subject: ACTA Petition re:I-Phone et al

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APR 4 1996

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Sirs/Madames

Please reject the ACTA Petition in toto. The petition itself is based on the false notions that: A) I-Phone will be used for immoral or illegal activities. This is clearly a red herring and inappropriate use of "prior restraint" without cause. B) The use of the FCC as a bludgeon for Restraint of Trade(as this issue is) clearly is outside the purview of the FCC and related Telecommunications Law. C) Any ruling for ACTA would be by Administrative Fiat, and clearly would circumvent the intent of Congress and the spirit and letter of existing laws. Thank you for your kind attention

Kenneth P. Frankel
2298 Jay Lane
Smyrna, Ga 30080

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From: <lfirrantello@BIX.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/29/96 8:14pm
Subject: ACTA & VON regulation of internet voice communications

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1 APR 4 1996

I think that the idea of more government interference in a system that is already working reasonably well will only serve to line the pockets of the big telecoms companies and not do anything to protect the consumers of internet services.

People are not asking that this mode of communication be regulated due to some problem, rather it is a number of large companies seeing a threat of competition that will make their profits less who are acting to try to prevent a new mode of communication from impinging on their profits.

I do not see how this is any different that the attempts of the railroad companies to gain legislative and regulative protection from competition from trucking companies in the middle of this century.

If the ACTA petition is honored, it will in effect be one more item of a rising trend toward "Corporate Welfare" by regulation and legislation.

--Mick Brown (lfirrantello@bix.com)

CC: FCCMAIL.SMTP("president@whitehouse.gov")

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From: CURTIS FOWLER <curt-kim@ix.netcom.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 3/29/96 7:29pm
Subject: ACTA

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I am a user of the internet and I find that the petition filed is absolutely ridiculous. The internet was created by the government so that everyone could share information freely between schools, government agencies, other countries, etc.. It was not intended to be taxed, regulated, censored, or restricted by the FCC. We the users, already pay for the service, and the phone lines that the greedy phone companies own that makeup the internet. It is only a natural progression as the technology improves that what started as E-MAIL now has become voicemail, internet phone, and internet video. We don't pay to drive our cars across state lines! Nothing promotes good will, understanding, and learning like seeing and/or hearing someone from another state or country. I think that teleconferencing and videoconferencing over the net is the greatest advancement in free speech ever created. The internet provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and is a crucial link in the phrase "think globally". The majority of the members of ACTA are small fish afraid of getting fried by the telephone giants. Even AT&T, MCI, and SPRINT are offering internet access. The members of ACTA don't want to adapt to survive. They want the FCC to do their dirty work for them to protect their investment and not have to compete in a free and open market. Beneficial technology should be encouraged not destroyed. PLEASE KEEP US FREE TO TALK TO THE WORLD!

thank you for your time.

sincerely,
Curtis Fowler

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